

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

So far, sialon fluorescent materials with activated Eu or other rare earth ions have been known as fluorescent materials capable of being excited by blue light to emit yellow light. The invention provides an oxy nitride fluorescent material capable of emitting light having a far wider range of wavelengths than ever before, and a light-emitting device incorporating it.

The invention provides a fluorescent material that contains as a main component a crystal phase having the general formula $\text{La}_3\text{Si}_8\text{N}_{11}\text{O}_4$ or $\text{La}_3\text{Si}_{8-x}\text{Al}_x\text{N}_{11-x}\text{O}_{4+x}$ where $0 < x \leq 4$, to and in which an optically active element (M) comprising one or two or more elements selected from Mn, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb and Lu is added and contained as a luminescence center component.